

Western Area Power Administration Dakota Wind Transmission Study

As the Resource Coalition (Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Montana-Dakota Utilities, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Missouri River Energy Services, Heartland Consumers Power District) looks at the ^{four} tasks that WAPA has identify for comment in the Dakota Wind Transmission Study, we highly recommend the most emphasis in expanding task three. Only when bona-fide projects are studied for interconnection will true wind development transmission needs be identified. Studying zones with different generation levels will only give generic transmission infrastructure needs and will be useless once actual generation (coal or wind) is developed in the region. We want WAPA to study real projects to get real results. This will take time and should be done as real projects are developed. Let's not do another high-level transmission study that will have little use for developing wind energy in North Dakota and South Dakota.

We suggest a different approach:

- Develop a program to study real wind projects for future generation. The program could be on a 50/50 cost share/grant basis.
- Develop parameters for determining what constitutes a bona-fide wind project.
- Develop site specific wind data with the following requirements:
 - * minimum period of least one year, preferably 2 years or more
 - * minimum anemometer height of at least 40 meters, but preferably 60 meters
 - * multiple monitoring points allowing calculation of wind shear
 - * defined system interconnection point for the wind project
 - * options for wind rights easements adequate for the proposed wind project.

The transmission studies outlined in our approach will result in specific transmission requirements that relate to specific wind generation at specific locations. These transmission studies will accurately determine the transmission requirements and related costs associated with the installation of specific wind generation projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Dakota Wind Transmission Study Proposal. Our hope is for WAPA to study wind development transmission needs that results in real projects that will be constructed. With the extensive wind generation opportunity in North & South Dakota combined with the existing transmission and building the correct new infrastructure – new wind energy will be marketed and delivered. This should be the goal for the Dakota Wind Transmission Study.